

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 91

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

MARCH 1995

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1994

Membership

Progress on all fronts characterized the NAHA in 1994. As the membership chart on the next page reveals, we added 119 new members and lost 74 for a net gain of 45. For the past few years members have tended to transfer their membership to lower level ones. This trend was dramatically reversed in 1994: 80 members elevated their membership while only 38 lowered theirs.

Forty percent of our members are life members. They provide stability and a sense of permanence to the Association. Because their dues are allocated to the Rølvaag Memorial Fund, the annual income that life membership dues provide can vary from year to year, ranging from fat to lean.

Finances

Our total assets, which now approach the million mark, were lifted by some \$40,000 in 1994, a 4.6 percent increase. From the financial statement that follows, one can note that the income that flowed into our Current Fund did not meet our operational costs. A relatively low yield on investments (around 4.5 percent) is one reason, but operational costs also continue to climb at unpredictable rates. These conditions signal a need to expand our membership ranks and to build to a higher level the Rølvaag Memorial Fund, the one fund that is not restricted in its use.

Gifts amounted to \$32,200. Those who made gifts of \$100 or more are listed later in this report. Board members provided \$9,000 of the total with O.J. Tomson leading the way with \$5,000. Marion and Lila Nelson and John and Birgitte Christianson each made \$1,000 gifts.

The Kenneth O. Bjork Chair Fund shows a balance of \$403,393, close to our declared goal. This balance, however, does not reflect a payment of \$15,000 from interest accrued in 1994 that must yet be made toward chair support for the academic year 1994-95. Another \$10,000 will be needed before complete victory can be claimed.

One publication, *Material Culture and People's Art*, absorbed the bulk of our printing costs in 1994. Much is revealed by the fact that income from dues and printing costs stand nearly equal. Dues alone cannot sustain the operation of the NAHA. Direct gifts and income from endowment funds are essential supplements.

Archives

Forrest Brown, our archivist, has not lacked for things to do. Beyond a steady stream of visitors, he continues to receive an astonishing amount of incoming material. Over the years we have tried to itemize new acquisitions in our *Newsletter* under the heading "Random News." Much of what is coming in falls within the area of family history. The histories that rely on or include letters, diaries, memoirs, and legal documents have significant historical value.

Graduate students from Norway have been our most enduring researchers in 1994. Annette Seglem and Ingrid Walseth, for example, devoted all of four months to research in the archives. Seglem completed a thesis on how Norwegian-Americans celebrated the centennial of the Norwegian Constitution (1914) and the centennial of the first group of Norwegians to come to the States in 1825. Walseth researched the north Norway migration to America.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Executive Board, the secretary thanks the members for their continued support and especially those who added a gift to their dues. This understandably includes those who elevated their membership status. Our editor, Odd S. Lovoll, who provides us with at least one book a year and sometimes two, deserves a grateful nod as does Forrest Brown who cares for the archives and those who use it. If one wishes to conjure up a nightmare in a hurry, one could try to visualize what things would be like at the NAHA office without Ruth Hanold Crane. Not all of our assets appear in the annual financial statement.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, 1994

Members	1/1/94	New Members	Trans. in	Cancelled	Trans. out	12/31/94	Net Gain or loss
Associate	739	90	33	60	64	738	-1
Sustaining	256	17	52	13	43	269	+13
Patron	42	3	16	1	11	49	+7
Life	<u>702</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13*</u>	<u>715</u>	<u>+13</u>
Total	1,739	119	118	74	131	1,771	+32
Deceased							
Life	<u>186</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>13*</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>+13</u>
Total Including Deceased							
Life	1,925	119	131	74	131	1,970	+45

*Because life membership dues are allocated to the Rølvaag Memorial Fund, life members provide perpetual income for the NAHA. Upon death their membership is transferred to deceased life.

NAHA FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1994

(Tentative Report)

	Current Fund	Endowment Funds	Total 1994	Total 1993
Revenues				
Current Fund Balance 1/1/94	44,574.00			
Associate, Sust. Patron Dues	26,181.54		26,181.54	23,450.00
Book Sales	6,017.69		6,017.69	3,853.00
Life Membership		4,993.00	4,993.00	5,085.00
Gifts, bequests	500.00	31,719.32	32,219.32	55,819.00
Interest (Current Fund)	1,392.00	31,495.95	32,888.76	33,009.00
Endowment Income (Rølvaag)	11,112.05		11,112.05	11,945.00
Transfer from Fosholt Fund	3,000.00		3,000.00	—
Miscellaneous	<u>3,189.45</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3,189.45</u>	<u>3,433.00</u>
Total	51,393.54	68,208.27	119,601.81	151,822.00
Expenditures				
Printing	25,324.21		25,324.21	26,048.00
Salary	14,512.85	2,860.00	17,372.85	18,012.00
Postage	6,304.37		6,304.37	7,912.00
Supplies	2,167.90		2,167.90	2,448.00
Travel		140.00	140.00	—
Telephone	897.94		897.94	781.00
Accounting Fees	3,900.00		3,900.00	4,082.00
Returned Books	40.05		40.05	42.00
Grants (Blegen Fund)		2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
King Olav V Chair (Bjork Fund)		15,957.00	15,957.00	—
Transfer to Current Fund (Fosholt)		3,000.00	3,000.00	—
Archives (Fosholt)		635.00	635.00	206.00
Equipment	496.75		496.75	7,962.00
Miscellaneous	<u>326.10</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>326.10</u>	<u>2,768.00</u>
Total	53,970.17	24,592.00	78,562.17	76,298.00
Income over Expenses	<2,576.63>	43,616.27		
Current Fund Balance 12/31/94	41,997.37			

The financial reports entered in this *Newsletter* will be superceded by a financial statement prepared by Virchow, Krause, Helgeson and Company, Certified Public Accountants, which should be available in June, 1995.

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1994**

	Bjork Ch. Fund	Blegen Fund	Fosholt- Hydle	Sigvald Qvale	Rølvaag Fund	Total Funds
Revenues						
Life Membership	—	—	—	—	4,993.00	4,993.00
Gifts & Bequests	13,974.32	—	—	—	17,745.00	31,719.32
Interest on						
Investments	<u>18,905.12</u>	<u>4,241.14</u>	<u>8,082.53</u>	<u>267.16</u>	—	<u>31,495.95</u>
Total Revenues	32,879.44	4,241.14	8,082.53	267.16	22,738.00	68,208.27
Expenditures						
Grants	15,957.00	2,000.00				
Transfer to						
Current Fund			3,000.00			
Salaries	2,860.00					
Travel	140.00					
Archives			635.00			
Total Expenditures	18,957.00	2,000.00	3,635.00			25,592.00
Revenue over Expenditures	13,922.44	2,241.14	4,447.53	267.16	27,738.00	42,616.27
Fund Balance 1/1/1994	389,471.00	87,436.00	164,409.00	5,518.00	225,016.00	871,850.00
Fund Balance 12/31/1994	403,393.44	89,677.14	168,856.53	5,785.16	252,754.00	920,466.27

Gifts Over \$100 Received in 1994

O.J. Tomson led the field with a gift of \$5,000. Eva Lund Haugen, Harriet M. Hustvedt and Grethe Seim each gave \$2,000. The following gave \$1,000 each: John & Birgitte Christianson, Sivert Klefstad, Marion & Lila Nelson, Alfred D. Olson whose gift was matched by the Mobil Foundation, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Janice & Harold Stewart.

Eunice L. Thompson gave \$850; Amanda F. Duff and Lawrence O. Hauge gave \$500; Lois & Sidney Rand, \$420; Harold Bakke, William Korsvik and Gerald Sime each, \$300; John T. Erickson, \$250; Clair Husby and Chris Velline, \$200; and Louis Blumengarten, \$125.

All the following gave \$100 each: Stuart & Marion Aaker, Alf H. Altern, Arlow W. Andersen, Walter Barthold, Bergenslaget residue funds, Arley Bjella, Joan Buckley, Maxine Dacumos, Corinne H. Davidson, Karen Davidson, Reidar Dittmann, Rakel Erickson, E.T. Fjelde, Betty Fladeland, Harlan Foss, William N. Georgeson,

Clarence Glasrud, R.M. Granum, Ole V. Groos, Ernest Gulsrud, Florence Haaserud, Morgen Halvorson, Terrance Hanold, Ivar & Sandra Hegstad, Orrin Helstad, James Hillestad, Freda Hovden, Charlotte Jacobson, Esther Boe James, Nils Lang-ree, Herbert H. Lee, Odd S. Lovoll, Harue Midtmoen, Elizabeth Miller, Jostein Molde, Helene Munch, Lawrence M. Nelson, E.J. Nordby, Frieda Nowland, Nils William Olsson, Albert & Gretchen Quie, Johan Ronningen, Kathleen B. Schmidt, Lise L. & Myles D. Striar, Symra Literary Society, Arnold W. Thompson and Marcia Turcotte.

Board Member John R. Tunheim

John R. Tunheim is chief Deputy Attorney General in the Minnesota Attorney General's office. Since June, 1986, he has supervised all of the operations of that office — 200 lawyers and 400 employees. Beyond office management, his responsibilities involve litigation, handling constitutional cases, working with the Legislature and representing the governor.

President Clinton added to his duties by

nominating him to serve on a review panel created to oversee public disclosure of secret government records on the Kennedy assassination. The assignment required U.S. Senate confirmation.

Ever since he graduated *summa cum laude* from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, in 1975, and from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1980, his vitae reveals a career marked by a progressive movement into more responsible positions. He also leaves a trail of appointments and elections to state and national level committees, commissions, and organizations. Beyond matters of law, he has been involved with issues like education, social welfare, and the impact of drugs on crime.

Tunheim's interest in Norwegian immigrant history dates back to his college days when he wrote a paper on his own community, a work which he later expanded to *A Scandinavian Saga: Pioneering in New Folden Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, 1882-1905*. It is a balanced township history of 212 pages, published in 1984. Folden township was settled beginning in 1882 mainly by Norwegians with a scattering of Swedes. Among the settlers were three Tunheim brothers who came from Time in Rogaland. Samuel and Ole Garborg, also from Time, were among them. An Ane Garborg was married to Martin Tunheim. A brother Arne Garborg remained in Norway. He became one of that country's most distinguished poets and novelists. Literary critics hold that of Norway's writers, Garborg had the finest mind of them all.

Tunheim lives in Stillwater, Minnesota,

with his wife, Kathryn, their two children Elizabeth and Samuel. Kathryn is president of a Twin Cities public relations firm, Tunheim Santrizos, Inc.

While the NAHA does not exactly anticipate any legal problems in the future, it is nonetheless a comfort to have a man with Tunheim's legal skills and broad range of experiences as a member of our board.

Random News

- Beginning in the fall of 1995 our editor, Odd Lovoll, will hold two teaching positions, one at the University of Oslo (20%) and the other at St. Olaf College (80%). His title at Oslo is best translated as university adjunct professor. In addition to teaching American history he will advise graduate students pursuing advanced degrees. This move may mark an effort on the part of the University of Oslo to fill an educational need created when Ingrid Semmingsen retired and the professorship she held was discontinued.

- Received from David Ostby his *Østby: 1778-1974*, a spiralbound genealogy of 137 pages. Photos and reproductions of official documents. The Ostbys left Norway in 1860 and settled in Wilmington county, Iowa.

- The newsletter (vol. 2 no. 1) for the Edvard Grieg Society, founded in 1991, reveals impressive accomplishments for that society over the past two years by way of concerts, lectures, drama and film. The society, headed by Per Brevig, has ambitious plans for the future. Interested persons may write to Edvard Grieg Society, Inc., Healy & Baillie, 29 Broadway, New York, NY 10006.

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